

June 22, 1999

RECOGNIZING SANDRA SOPAK

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a constituent of mine, Sandra Sopak. Sandy is the County Clerk for Chautauqua County, New York and recently won the National Genealogical Society's Award of Merit. It reads:

Sandra Sopak receives the NGS Award of Merit for her willingness to cooperate with the Chautauqua County Genealogical Society in order to make records more available to the public. Her latest efforts include arranging to have photocopies made of all county tax lists, many of which date from 1850 and before, so the Society's publications committee can extract, index, and ultimately publish this valuable historical information. The Society, in turn, donated a set of their genealogical indexes to aid the county clerk when she is asked for vital record information. This is a fine example of record-keepers and record-seekers working together for the benefit of both.

This is the first time that this award has been given to a County Clerk—and a popular County Clerk at that. Sandy was elected in 1993, and was re-elected in 1997 overwhelmingly. In praise of her contribution, a friend and coworker of Sandra writes, "She is a thoughtful leader within Chautauqua County government, a former town supervisor, a former hospital nurse, as well as a dedicated mother and wife. Her example should be recognized by Americans from not only New York but from all across America."

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to spread that recognition across America. Thank you, Sandy, for your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence for Friday, June 18, 1999 after 12 noon. At that time, I received word of a family emergency at home in New Jersey and immediately left Washington D.C. Following are the votes I missed and how I would have voted:

Representatives Sessions and Frost amendment (No. 8) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 239, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Goode Amendment (No. 9) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 240, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Hunter Amendment (No. 10) to H.R. 2111, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Rogan Amendment (No. 11) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yea".

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Representatives Conyers and Campbell Amendment (No. 12) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Act: On rollcall No. 243, I would have voted "yea".

On Passage of H.R. 2122: On rollcall vote No. 244, I would have voted "nay".

COMMENDING TAIWANESE AMERICANS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last month I joined people throughout Colorado and across the nation in celebrating Pacific American Heritage Month. The Pacific American community represents an important foundation of America's future and I commend their proud celebration of heritage and community.

Taiwanese American Heritage Week of Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the unique and diverse contributions of the more than 500,000 Taiwanese Americans in the United States. This portion of the population has made countless significant achievements in this country and their accomplishments can be found in every facet of American life. For instance, Taiwanese Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, and business leaders.

In addition to recognizing these contributions, this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy on the island of Taiwan. Since 1987, the Taiwanese people have possessed the rights to select their own leaders, practice the religion of their choice, and express their thoughts openly and freely. Taiwan is a vibrant and democratic participant in the family of nations.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Taiwanese American Heritage Week recognizes the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. Earlier this year, I joined my Congressional colleagues in proudly celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) into law. The TRA is an important reminder of the strong bond of friendship between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the great accomplishments and contributions of the Taiwanese American community.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment. Many of us here in Congress are working to

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keep guns out of the hands of criminals. But if this amendment is approved, it will do just the opposite because it will give law enforcement officials less time to complete background checks at gun shows. It is a step backward.

This amendment is ineffective and is riddled with loopholes. It would weaken existing laws and put the safety of law enforcement officials and every person in this nation at risk. It is no coincidence that the gun lobby supports this measure.

It would be a sad commentary on the state of Congress if the gun lobby is successful in strong-arming members of Congress to support this measure. Should this amendment pass, American families will soon find out that the gun lobby, with its deep pockets, calls the shots in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the McCarthy/Roukema/Blagojevich amendment and other measures that will be offered during this debate. We must put the safety and security of our children ahead of the interests of the gun lobby.

These measures include the sale of child-safety locks with each handgun, instant background checks at gun shows, and the importation ban of ammunition magazines with a capacity of ten or more rounds of ammunition.

This is what a majority of our constituents want and it is the duty of Congress to respond to their outcry.

THE STANLEY CUP CHAMPION
DALLAS STARS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, instead of being relegated to a long and cold life in Buffalo, the Stanley Cup will be deep in the warm heart of Texas, specifically the great city of Dallas.

We have the Dallas Stars to thank for bringing the cup to us after coming close to winning the cup in the semifinals last year. However, we cannot say we thank our lucky stars, for they defeated Buffalo with skill, determination and hard work. That was not luck.

This determination was exemplified by the play of Dallas Stars goaltender Eddie Belfour, who made 53 saves in the winning game of the Stanley Cup series.

The result of their defeating the Buffalo Sabers means more than a Stanley Cup coming to the best city in the world. The victory by the Dallas Stars has made a proud city even more proud.

Mr. Speaker, this was evident yesterday morning in Dallas as thousands of her citizens and Stars fans joined the team in downtown Dallas to honor our Stanley Cup champions.

Mr. Speaker, the Stars truly shine bright "deep in the heart of Texas." Green and black are the colors of the National Hockey League and, I will wager that next year, they will shine even brighter.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this victory even sweeter is the fact that for 3 years, the Stars have won the President's trophy that goes to